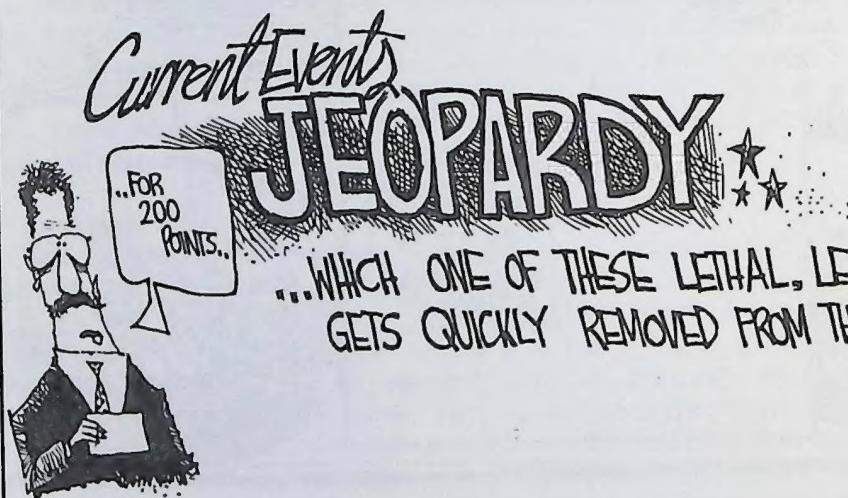


EPISODE #110
April 21, 1994

The Valley **COMIC** N • E • W • S



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GANNET SUBURBAN NEWSPAPERS



ENTERTAINMENT LISTINGS!!

STORIES:

USA TODAY
BEYOND POLITIX
WHAT IN THE WORLD?
HILLARY PILLORY
SINGAPORE STING

INSIDE

FEATURES: THE FAR SIDE,
DOONESBURY,
CALVIN & HOBBS,
VIEWS OF THE WORLD,
JOE BOB BRIGGS, LEOLD,
THIS MODERN WORLD,
TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT,
L.A. CUCARACHA,
MIKE CHRISMAN,
EARTHWEEK

FREE FREE
FREE FREE

SINGAPORE STING

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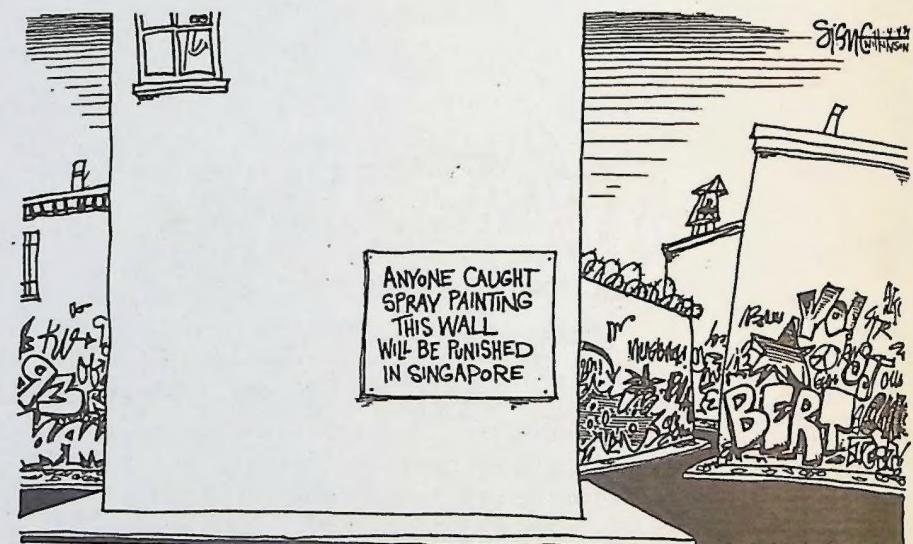
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SALES BY USA TODAY
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BARBARIANS!



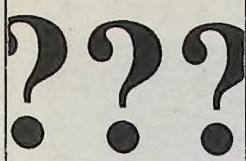
A frustrated Tonya Harding
packs her bags and moves to
a country where her talents
will be appreciated ...



©KarenFarren '94

PAGE THREE

by Mike Chrisman



Dear Answer Guy,

Q: I saw in *The New York Times* where Iran has recently approved the death penalty for dealers in sexual videos. What do you think about this?

A: I saw the same article, and I'm sure there are some real low-IQ American wingnuts running around trying to get a similar law passed in this country. Many of them are already serving in various state legislatures. They're the ones who always voted against the ERA because they were terrified of lesbians using their toilets. I certainly don't favor the death penalty for sexual videos, although I *do* approve of the sex penalty for violent videos.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: As you know, all time is kept relative to Greenwich Mean Time. The Time Zones run north and south, like longitude. And — like longitude — they all come together at the North Pole. According to scientists, this means that time is not kept at the North Pole. Okay, if time isn't kept at the North Pole, would you get older if you lived there?

A: Of course you would; look at Santa Claus. Do you think he's always been that old? At the North Pole, you do get older, but it happens *very slowly*, because occasionally during severe blizzards, a teensy bit of time leaks out of the Time Zones and spills over onto the people who live there. It's not much, but it adds up.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: When I use two hands to carry stuff, I always have to set it down because I get this uncontrollable urge to scratch an itch. Does this happen to everybody?

A: How dumb can you get? Imagine a hotel porter, arms full of your luggage, going, "Waitez-here monsieur; I must stop pour scratcher my nez." You can bet he'd kiss his tip goodbye. I mean, so you've got an itch. *Live with it*. How many times have you heard about an astronaut ripping off his or her helmet to pick at their scalp? *It just doesn't happen*. You're pathetically ill-equipped to deal with the modern world, and obviously need years of expensive therapy, or a prehensile tail.

Dear Answer Guy,

Q: I've been washing my clothes in Tide for several years, and I've really believed it worked, just like in the commercials — whiter whites, and all that. I even told my friends about it. I guess I had "consumer loyalty." But last night I saw an ad for "New Improved Tide," and I'm like "Hey! This stuff they were selling me was crapola — *and they knew it all the time*." Isn't it true that while they were pushing this *junk* on me, they were mixing up *better* stuff in the back room, because they knew the old Tide *sucked*? I feel so used!

A: I understand your pain. What you need to do is look behind the scenes, where countless thousands of Americans are put to work redesigning detergent boxes, rewriting TV ads, restocking supermarket shelves — all because a big-hearted corporate executive decided to give you your money's worth, for a change. Don't think of this as a betrayal; think of it as a jump-start for the economy. That's how they do it in Washington.

The Valley Comic News

P.O. Box 515, Northampton, MA 01061

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18 on the 18th • Siena Chrisman c 1994 *The Valley Comic News*

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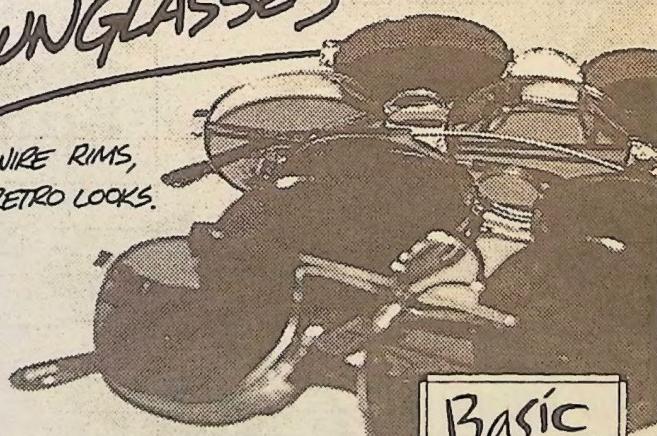
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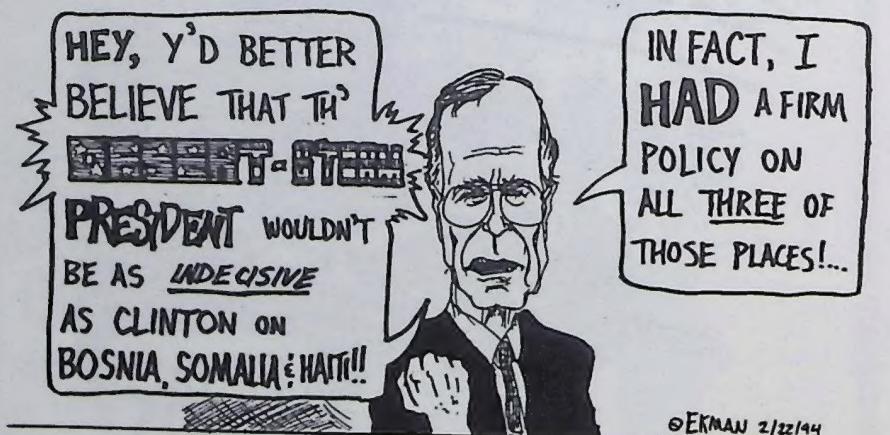
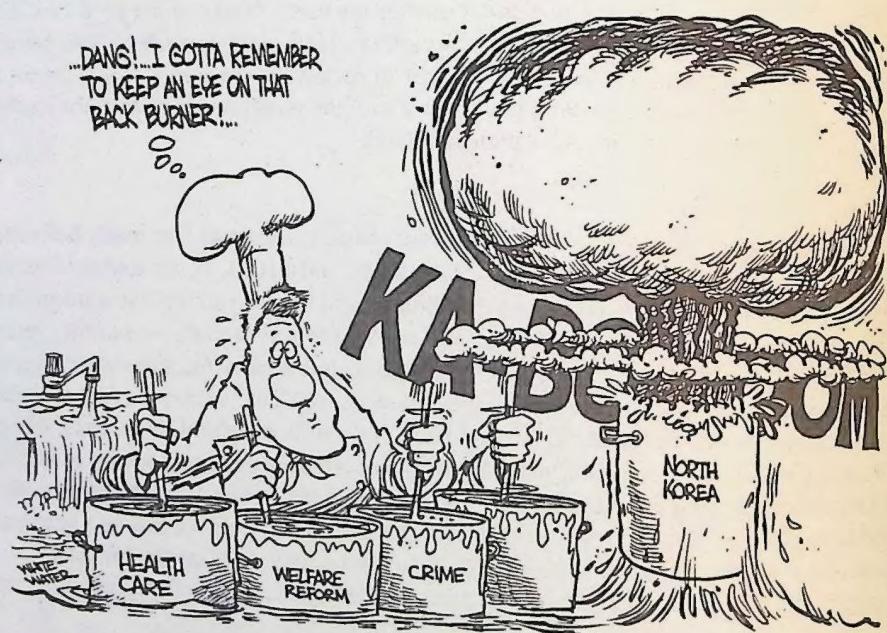
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WHAT IN THE WORLD?

Cartoonists & Writers Syndicate



Valley Comic News Reader Survey 1994

What is your gender?

male female

How old are you?

under 18
 18 - 21
 22 - 25
 26 - 31
 32 - 40
 41 - 55
 56 - 65
 over 65

What's your education?

some high school
 high school grad
 some college
 undergrad degree
 graduate degree
 masters degree
 currently enrolled

Does one of these sound like your job?

professional
 service worker
 student
 retail
 educator
 clerical
 manager
 artist/craftsperson
 building trades
 food industry
 entrepreneur
 state employee
 technical trades
 salesperson
 still finding myself
 full time parent

How much did you haul in last year? (as a household in thousands)

under \$9
 \$10 - \$19
 \$20 - \$29
 \$30 - \$49
 \$50 - \$74
 \$75 - \$99
 over \$100

What are you dwelling in?

your own home
 another rental

What's the approximate market value of your home? (in thousands), or How much do you pay monthly for rent? (flat rate)

under \$59
 \$60 - \$99
 \$100 - \$149
 \$150 - \$199
 \$200 - \$299
 \$300 - \$399
 \$400 - \$499
 \$500 - \$749
 \$750 - \$999
 over \$1000

What's your marital status?

single
 married
 permanent significant other

How many in your household?

1 3
 2 over 4

How many credit cards do you have?

1 3
 2 over 4

How much do you spend monthly on...

meals out	gifts	home appliances	entertainment	clothing
				0-\$99
				\$100-\$199
				\$200-\$299
				\$300-\$399
				\$400-\$499
				over \$500

(Check each box that applies)

Do you plan to buy a car in the next year?

yes no

How often do you eat out?

never
 1 - 3 times a month
 1 - 2 times a week
 3 - 5 times a week
 "What's a stove?"

How are we doing?

lousy
 not bad
 mediocre
 pretty good
 excellent
 eye-poppin' gorgeous

Do you find yourself anticipating the arrival of the next issue of the VCN?

yes (of course)
 no (really?)

Do you read our paper from cover to cover?

yes no

Do you read any other paper from cover to cover?

yes no

name 'em: _____

How many other people get to read your copy of the VCN?

1 3
 2 over 3

Do you usually look through your copy of the VCN more than once?

yes no

What do you like best about the VCN?

What would you like us to change?

What place you'd most like to see the VCN distributed?

Prizes & Surprises



Karavan Imports Gift Certificates • The Northampton Brewery Gift Certificates
Iron Horse & Pearl Street Tickets • Plus T-Shirts & caps galore!!!

Fill out this survey and mail it to:

The Valley Comic News Survey
P.O. Box 515
Northampton, MA 01061

"I wanna win!"

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

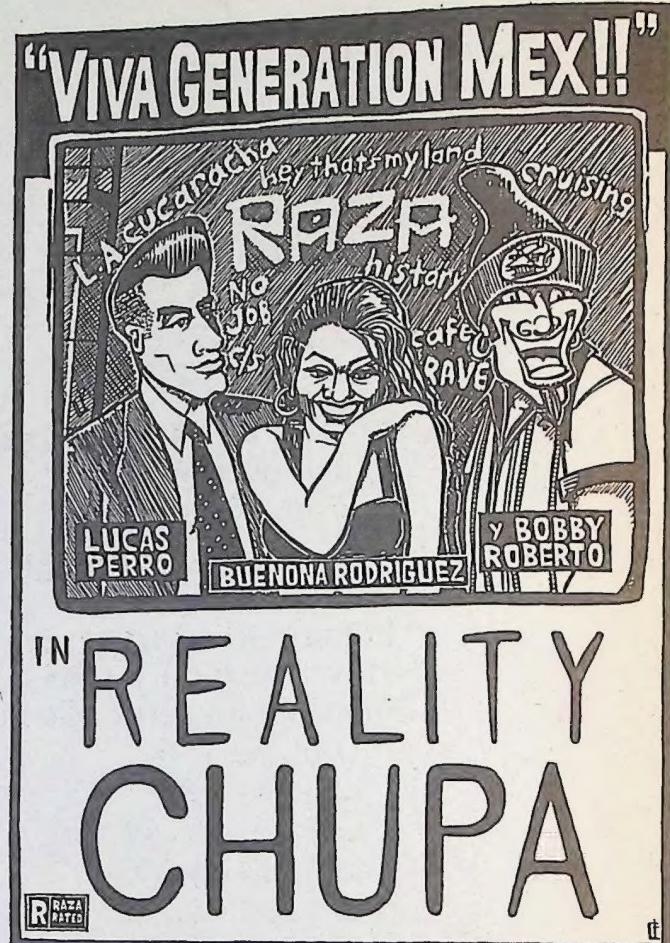
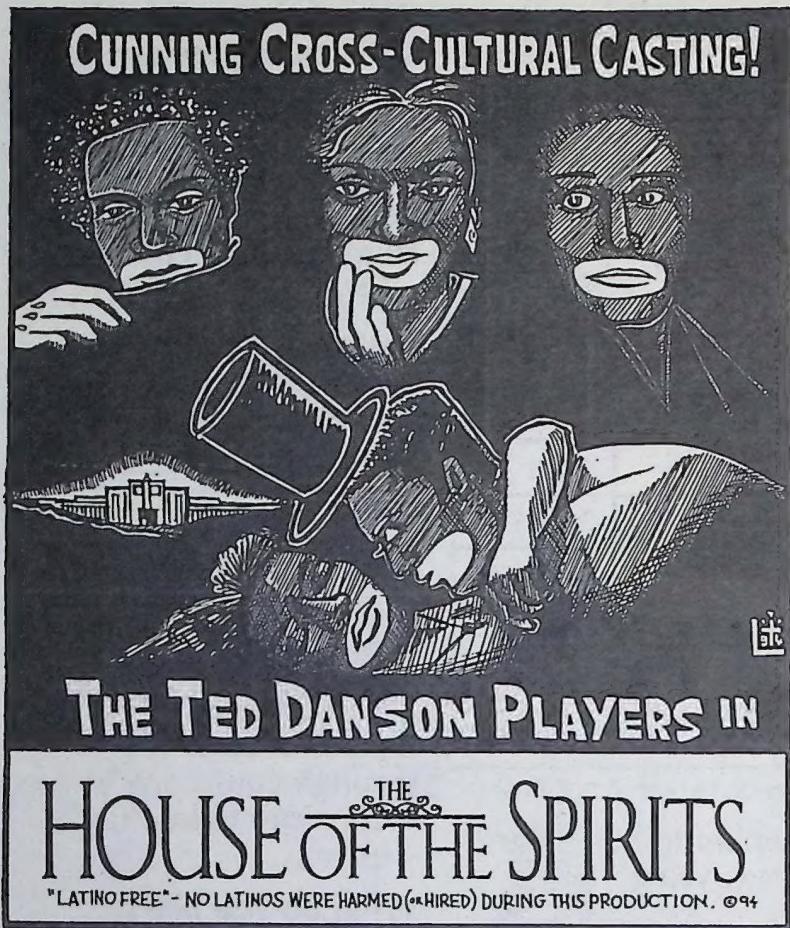
State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Prize drawings will be held on April 29, 1994. All information will be kept confidential.

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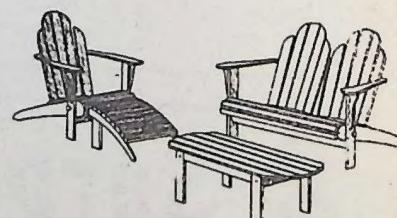
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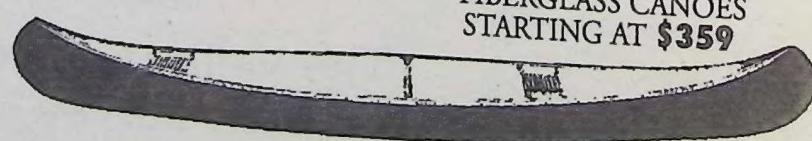


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Many more items, too numerous to list.

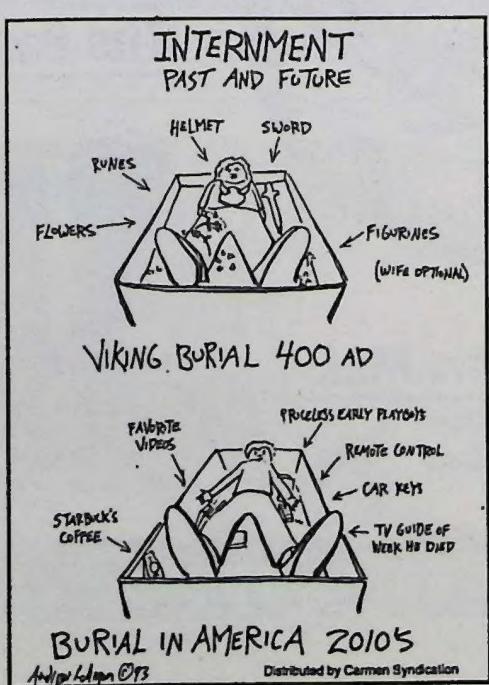
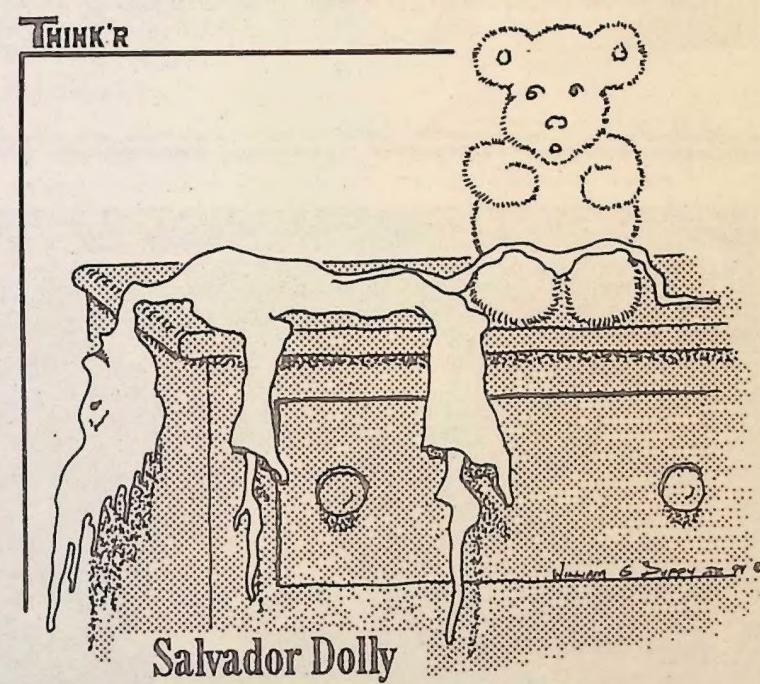
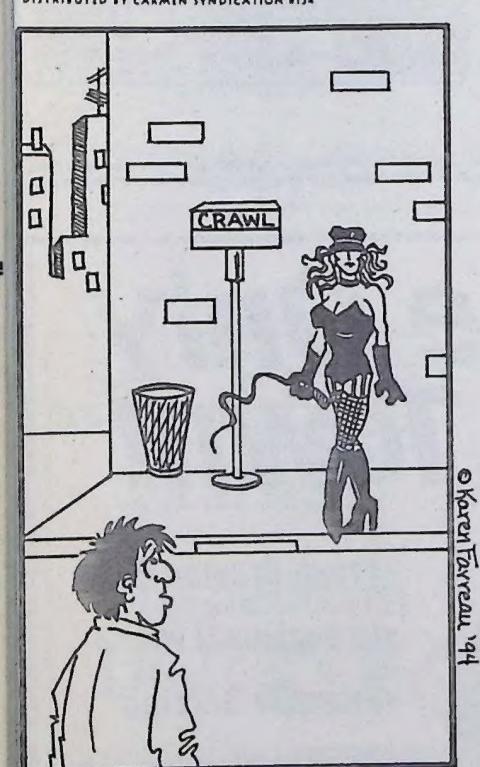
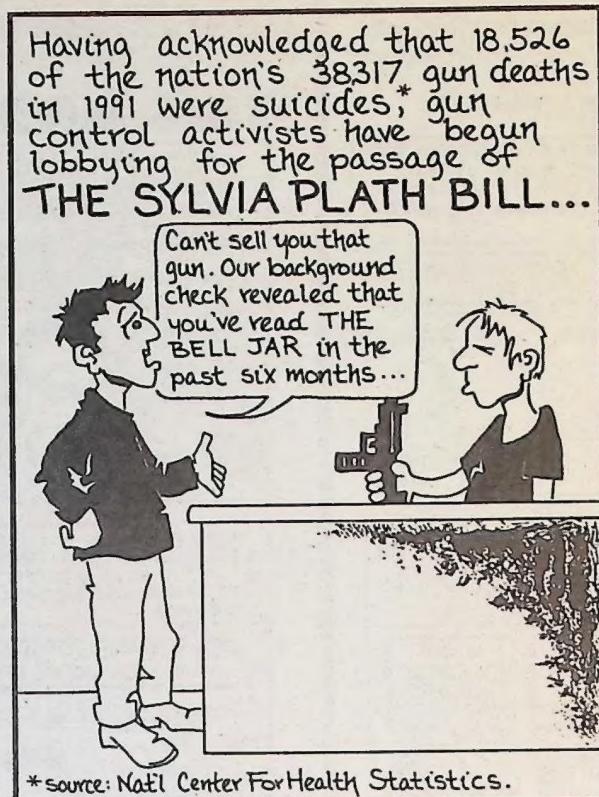
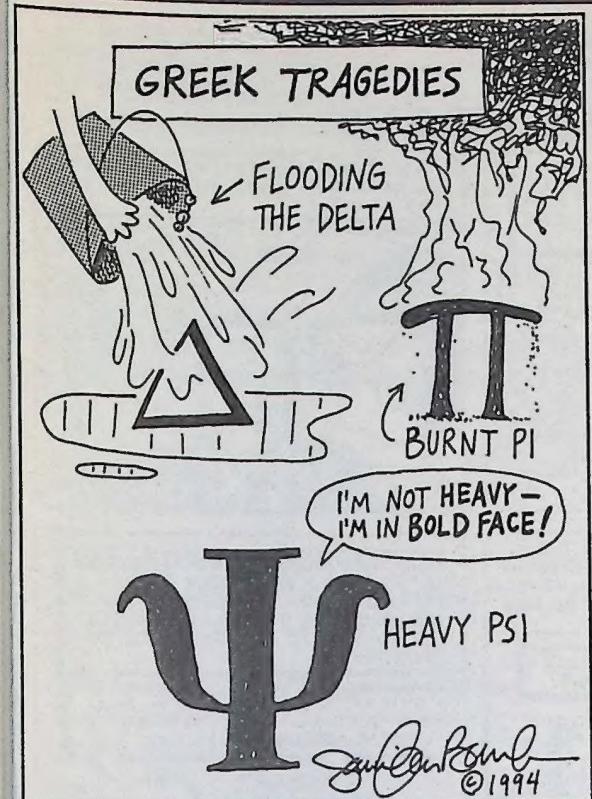
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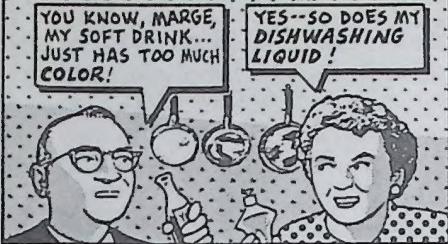
BEYOND POLITIX



THIS MODERN WORLD BY TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

MARKETERS RARELY SEEK TO **FILL** NEEDS, BUT RATHER TO **CREATE** THEM... FOR INSTANCE, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THERE WAS REALLY MUCH DEMAND FOR **CLEAR** PRODUCTS PRIOR TO THEIR INTRODUCTION...



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NOR WAS THERE A NOTICABLE CLAMOR FOR "DRY" BEER--A PRODUCT WHOSE UTTER INEXPLICABILITY WAS SIDESTEPPED WITH AN AD CAMPAIGN RIDICULING THE NEED FOR EXPLANATIONS...

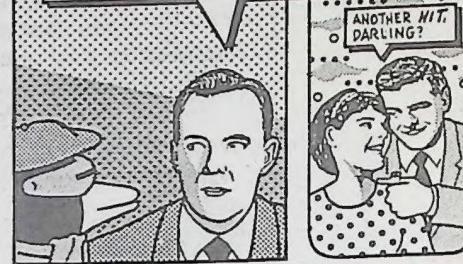


IT IS AN ONGOING PROCESS... WHY, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, HIGHLY PAID PROFESSIONALS ARE WORKING DILIGENTLY TO DEVELOP EVEN MORE USELESS INNOVATIONS YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO LIVE WITHOUT...



THIS MODERN WORLD

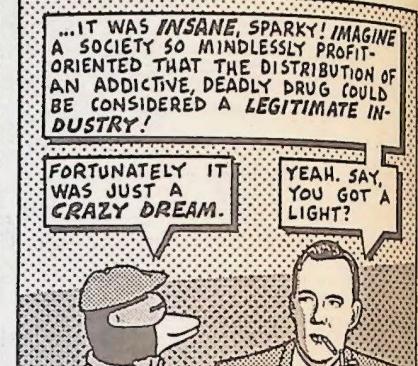
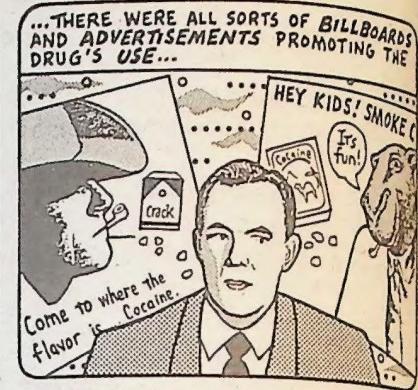
I HAD THE STRANGEST DREAM LAST NIGHT, SPARKY... CRACK COCAINE WAS LEGAL... AND PEOPLE WERE SMOKING IT EVERYWHERE...



...AND EVERY TIME YOU TURNED ON THE TV, THERE WAS A COCAINE-INDUSTRY EXECUTIVE DECLARING WITH A PERFECTLY STRAIGHT FACE THAT CRACK WAS NEITHER HARMFUL NOR ADDICTIVE...



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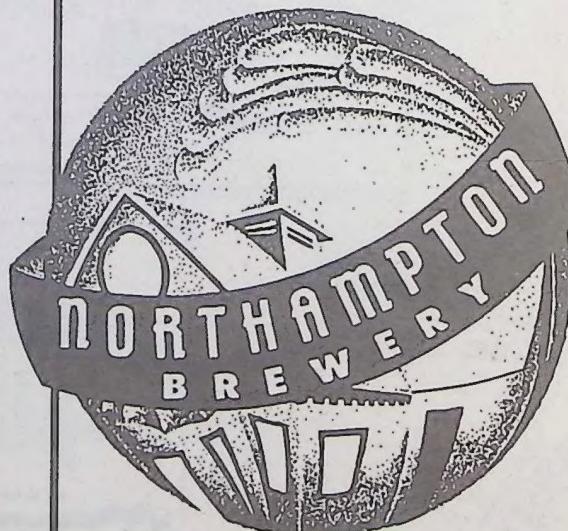
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TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT

by L.M. Boyd

Q. We used to talk about "a real doozy" or "a real dilly," meaning something extra special. I know "doozy" came from the car name "Duesenberg." But where'd we get "dilly"?

A. From "Diligence," the English name of a fancy public stage coach.

Pizza shops authorized to sell to the White House say deliveries are up 31 per cent over the previous administration.

Local law in Kirkland, Ill., makes it illegal for bees to fly over town.

Baseball may be the only game in which the defense controls the ball at the beginning of every play.

The first airline flight attendants had to be women who stood no more than 5-foot-4 and weighed no more than 115 pounds.

An average married man lives 6 years 7 months longer than the average never-married man.

Q. How many types of Barbie dolls are sold every year?
A. About 90, with 120 outfits.

On the cattle ranges of the Old West, some cowboys played banjos, some played fiddles. But the guitar-playing cowboy was created in Hollywood.

Most people can't name the three largest cities on the West Coast. LA is easy. But people forget Vancouver, BC, and Tijuana, Mexico. We didn't specify American West Coast.

Podiatrists do well in Atlantic City and Las Vegas. Why? People stand overlong at the slots and tables; their ankles swell, their feet hurt, and they look for treatment.

Neither 12 noon nor 12 midnight is AM or PM.

Q. What did the ancient Egyptians make beer out of?
A. Barley dough in date water.

Surveytakers report that nine out of 10 marriages in which the women proposed have been successful.

What we call cowbirds are frequently found around cattle. Cowbirds, though, is a relatively recent name. They used to be called buffalo birds.

According to historical footnotes, Buckingham Palace was built on the site of an old brothel.

About half the kids in Japan now know how to use chopsticks.

Cross-country skiers are 10 times more likely than non-skiers to have asthma. Researchers conclude prolonged exposure to cold air causes it.

Q. Who got the first Medicare ID card?
A. Harry S. Truman, in 1966. Card No. 1.

An old Wisconsin law specifically forbids a railroad conductor from kissing a passenger.

United Kingdom ambassadors make marginal notes on documents in red ink. No one else in the British Foreign Office is allowed to use red ink.

Henry Ward Beecher said, "A man without mirth is like a wagon without springs. He is jolted disagreeably by every pebble in the road."

The average home has four calendars in it.

Nature also defended the porcupine against itself, evidently. Chemical analysis of its quills shows they're naturally coated with antibiotics.

Half of all Americans over age 55 have no natural teeth left.

Sellers of tableware say men who buy it most often choose pieces with blue in them.

Q. Where'd we get the phrase "to win hands down"?

A. From horse racing. When a horse was so far ahead it couldn't possibly be beaten, the jockey of old dropped the reins, hands down, to give the horse its head.

Three out of ten people tell pollsters that they've been moved-to tears at one time or another by greeting cards.

Fewer cars get into accidents while turning right on a red light than while turning right at a green light.

Coyotes, too, wag their tails.

Longfellow stated, "In this world a person must be either anvil or hammer."

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Cracked?
Inspection
Due?

Mirror
Broken?
Company
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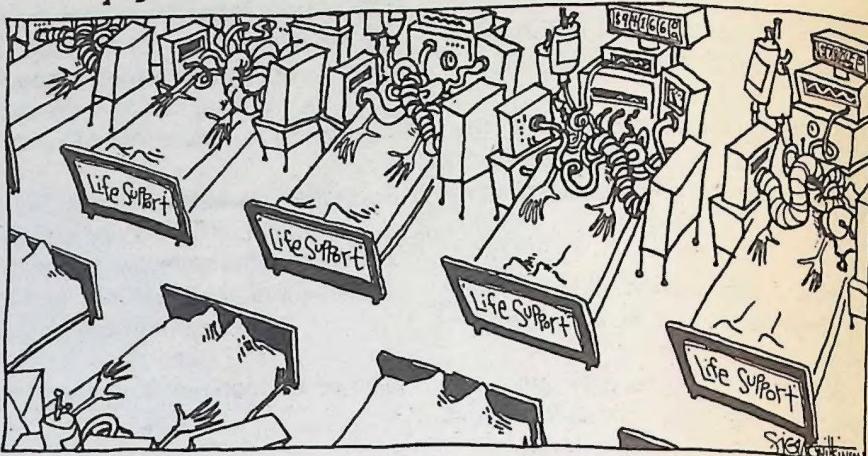
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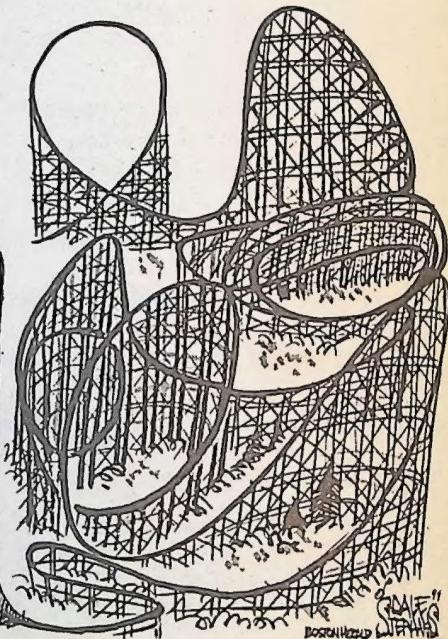
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...THAT WASN'T
SO BAD...LET'S
DO IT AGAIN!!



For reasons she cannot explain,
some part of Cynthia Cahalen
wants to be in Graceland, reading
The Valley Comic News

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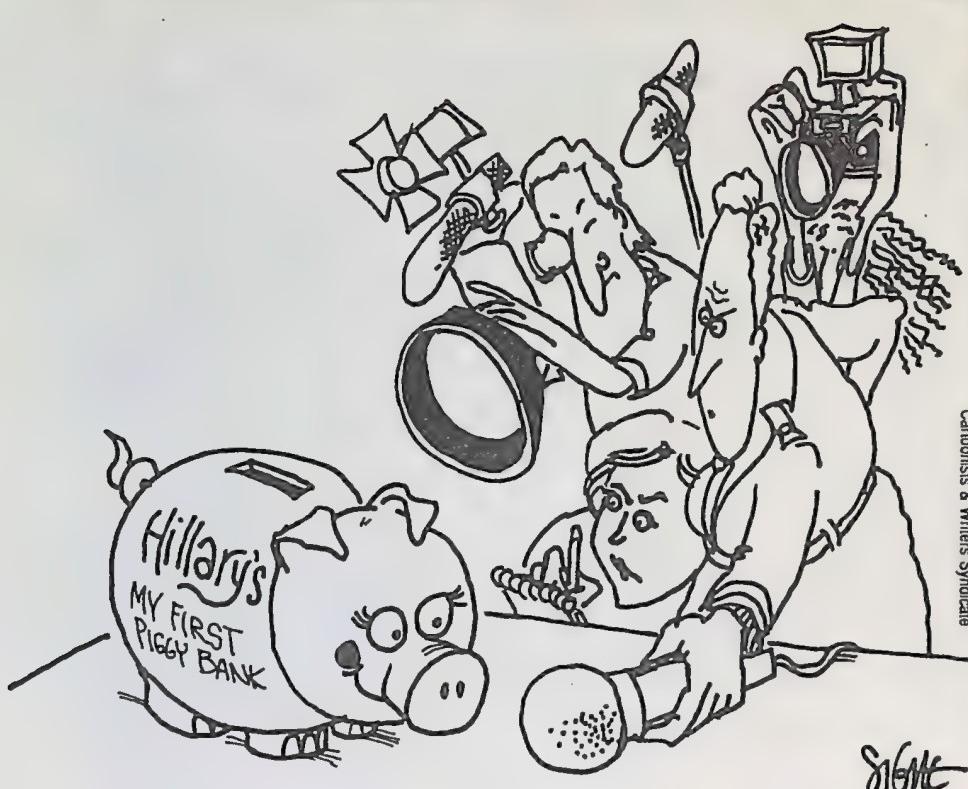
IT'S TIME TO
TALK ABOUT
HEALTHCARE.

DO YOU KNOW
WHERE YOUR
REPUBLICANS
ARE ???

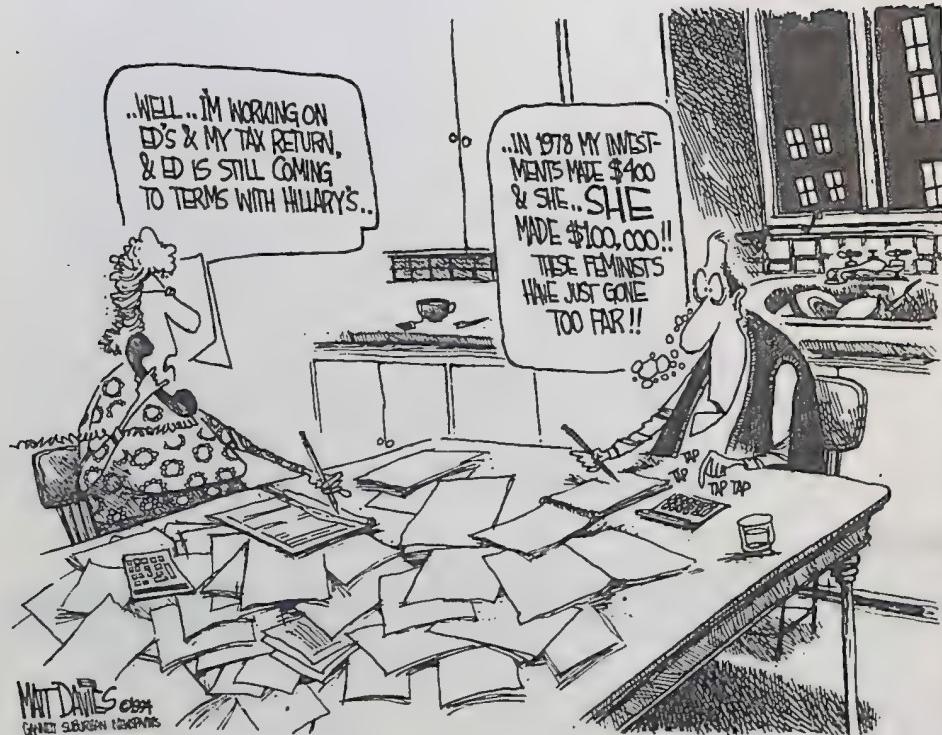


MATT DAVIS

HILLARY PILLORY



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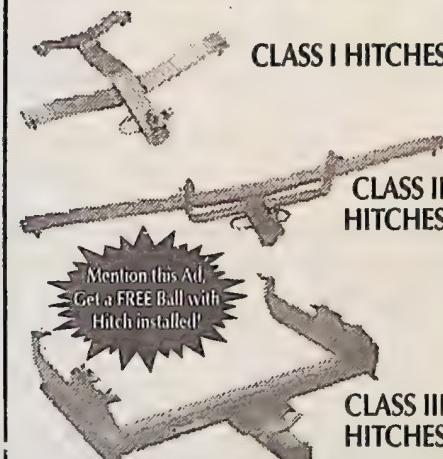
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AMANDA'S DIRTY SECRET

Thurs., April 28
THE WAILERS
The Equalites

Fri., April 29
ANSON
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THU
TWENTYONE

Vertex: Selectrocution Iron Horse: Bill Miller, Hunter Moore (7pm), Painesville Lanes (10pm) Hadley Pub: open mic blues jam Seven O's: DJ Dance Club Pearl Street: Bim Skala Bim, Soup, plus 18+ dance music by Spin, Inc. North Star: Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Mike Kusek Smith College Theatre: Late Bus to Mecca, by Pearl Clage Black Sheep Deli: Yankee Rose

FRI
TWENTYTWO

Pearl Street: Debbie Davies Band, Wildcat O'Halloran, plus top 40 dance music w/ DJ Lance Bay State Hotel: Angry Johnny & The Killbillies (ladies night) Seven O's: Sundown Delaney House: LaValley Duo Smith College Theatre: Late Bus to Mecca, by Pearl Clage Northampton Center for the Arts: Mass. ALERT Earth Day Dance Vertex: A & E Showcase Green River Cafe: Julia Burrough Peking Garden/Humor Works: showcase & open mic Hadley Pub: Whatusee Iron Horse: Riverfront Jump North Star: DJ dance party (tux nite — \$10 prize) Montague Bookmill: Tony Vacca & Steve Leicash

SAT
TWENTYTHREE

Vertex: Selectrocution Northampton Center for the Arts: Danse Afrique Hadley Pub: Island dance party w/ DJ Dan Black Sheep Cafe: Maple Ridge Bluegrass Band Charlemont Inn: John Sheldon & Blue Streak North Star: Andrei Ryabov Iron Horse: John Martyn, Huffamoose Smith College Theatre: Late Bus to Mecca, by Pearl Clage Delaney House: LaValley Duo Amherst College: Indigo Girls Pearl Street: Sleepy La Beef, The Barnstormers Seven O's: Sundown Bay State Hotel: Vanilla Trainwreck, Hoolapopper, Home Green River Cafe: Leroy White UMass Fine Arts Center: The Wizard of Oz — The Musical

SUN
TWENTYFOUR

Northampton Center for the Arts: Sunday Tea Dance (3-7pm) Green River Cafe: Leroy White Iron Horse: Andy Stewart, John Allen (of the Bollocks) Northampton Brewery: The Unband, Ray Mason Band UMass Fine Arts Center: The Wizard of Oz — The Musical (2 shows: 2pm, 7pm) Seven O's: open mic Hadley Pub: comedy open mic Vertex: Revenant, Lachrymator

MON
TWENTYFIVE

Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Vertex: Gay Nite w/ DJ Steve Iron Horse: Jesse Colin Young Pearl Street: God Street Wine

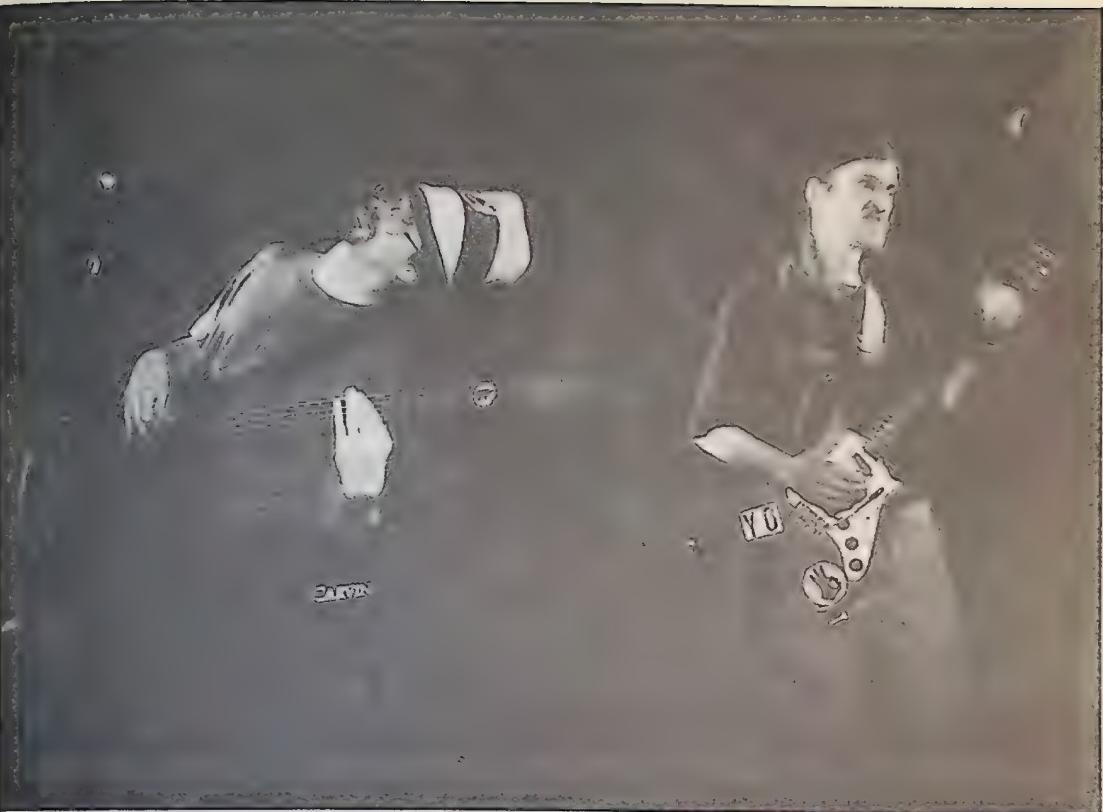
TUE
TWENTYSIX

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ Mark Herschler UMass Hampden Theater: University Jazz Ensemble Iron Horse: Commander Cody & his Lost Planet Airmen Hadley Pub: open mic Pearl Street: Amanda's Dirty Secret Green River Cafe: open mic Bay State Hotel: Maestro Subgum & The Whole, Rob Skelton & Banned Waggon

WED
TWENTYSEVEN

Hadley Pub: Reggae party North Star: C & W dance night Northampton Center for the Arts: Fantasy Wednesday — dancing w/ Studio Guam Iron Horse: Austin Lounge Lizards Bay State Hotel: Joybang! Eight Hundred, Subduing Mara Pearl Street: Gay Night — dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Northampton Brewery: Leslie Smith & Joe Boyle Vertex: alternative dance night — 18+ Green River Cafe: Maestro Subgum & The Whole





yePI at Pearl Street

Tobey photo



THU
TWENTYEIGHT

Seven O's: DJ Dance Club Hadley Pub: open mic blues jam UMass Hampden Theater: Ricky Ford's Hot Brazz Septet Bay State Hotel: Minibus, Xanax 25 Pearl Street: The Wailers, The Equalites, plus 18+ hip-hop dancing to music by Spin, Inc. Vertex: Selectrocution Iron Horse: Ben Demerath & Sugarbeat North Star: Boyz Night Out, w/ DJ Mike Kusek

FRI
TWENTYNINE

Bay State Hotel: Kate Jacobs, Tizzy, Love Apples North Star: 18+ DJ dance party Pearl Street: Anson Funderburgh & The Rockets, Sam Myers, plus Top 40 w/ DJ Lance Seven O's: Slippery Moon Iron Horse: Battlefield Band Smith College (Hills Chapel): Amandla Vertex: UMass football party Delaney's: Lavalley Duo Green River Cafe: 3rd anniversary party Peking Garden/Humor Works: showcase & open mic Charlemont Inn: Mark Nomad Blues Band East Street Theatre: Video Allegro in Remote Time (Playwrights-in-Progress)

SAT
THIRTY

East Street Theatre: Video Allegro in Remote Time (Playwrights-in-Progress)
North Star: Sue Burkhardt Green River Cafe: She's Busy Hadley Pub: Island dance party w/ DJ Dan Seven O's: Slippery Moon Delaney's: Lavalley Duo Iron Horse: Quetzal Pearl Street: Art Steele Blues Band HMP, w/ music by Spin, Inc. Charlemont Inn: The Barnstormers Montague Book Mill: Salamander Crossing, Onion Bob

SUN
ONE

Northampton Brewery: Miss Reed, Amy Fairchild Band UMass Fine Arts Center: Van Cliburn Competition Winner Seven O's: open mic Iron Horse: Bud Collins, Electric Noodle Factory Hadley Pub: comedy open mic Amherst College: Poi Dog Pondering, Syd Straw Notch Visitors Center: Annual Spring Breakfast (10am)

MON
TWO

Vertex: Gay Nite, w/ DJ Steve Bay State Hotel: Blue Monday, w/ Ed Vadas & The Fabulous Heavyweights Iron Horse: Acoustic Junction, LIR

TUE
THREE

Northampton Brewery: open mic, w/ Tom Shea Pearl Street: Black Market Flowers, Dandelion Iron Horse: TBA Vertex: Nuclear Assault Hadley Pub: open mic UMass Fine Arts Center: Bobby McFerrin's Hardchoral

WED
FOUR

Iron Horse: Phoebe Legere Bay State Hotel: Schleigh Ho, Yetti Vertex: alternative dance night — 18+ Pearl Street: Gay Night w/ music by Spin, Inc. Northampton Brewery: Sarah Purcell Hadley Pub: Reggae party Pearl Street: They Might Be Giants

IRON HORSE

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Hunter Moore
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FRI 22

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SAT 23

JOHN MARTYN
Huffamoose

SUN 24

ANDY STEWART
John Allen (of Bollocks)

MON 25

JESSE COLIN YOUNG

TUES 26

COMMANDER CODY
and his Lost Planet Airmen

WED 27

AUSTIN LOUNGE
LIZARDS

THUR 28

BEN DEMERATH
and Sugarbeat

FRI 29

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SUN 1

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EARTHWEEK: A DIARY OF THE PLANET

Tornado Season

Palm Sunday skies, filled with eerie colors and ominous clouds, unleashed scores of deadly tornadoes and severe storms in the southeastern U.S. At least 41 people were killed in four states. The greatest tragedy occurred when 21 people perished as one twister tore through a United Methodist Church in Piedmont, Ala., during a Holy Week pageant.

In Bangladesh, more than 150 people were injured as a tornado hit several villages in Saver, about 50 miles north of the capital, Dhaka. The twister, which was on the ground for more than 20 minutes, damaged several hundred houses and uprooted trees and utility poles.

Tropical Storms

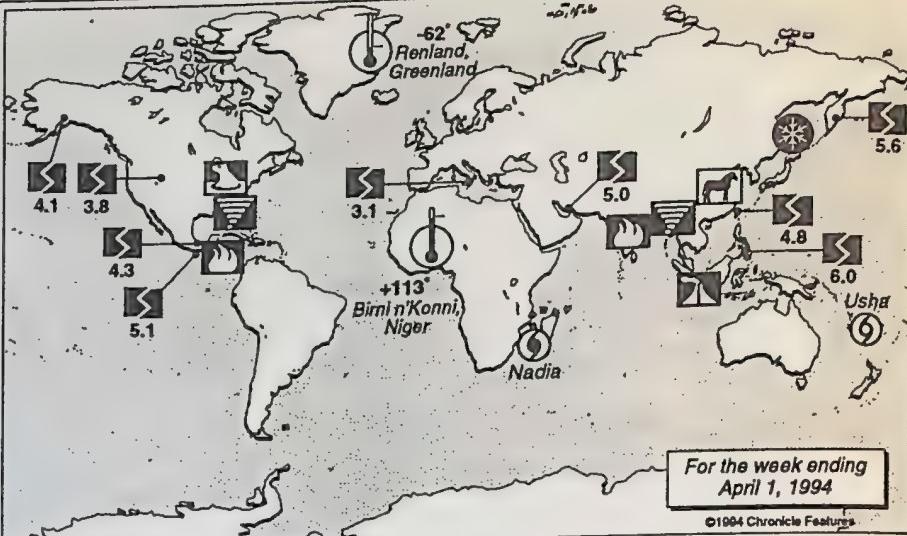
After wrecking parts of northern Madagascar during the previous week, cyclone Nadia slammed into the coast of Mozambique, laying waste to the northern province of Nampula. About 1.5 million people were made homeless by the storm, which also ruined crops just before the harvest. International relief efforts were launched to provide emergency shipments of food, medicine, and building materials to the devastated area. The storm went on to gain strength again over the Mozambique Channel late in the week.

Tropical cyclone Usha brought more than 10 inches of rain to the island nation of Vanuatu.

Earthquakes

Mexico's only nuclear power plant was rattled by a moderate tremor off the Veracruz coast, but no damage or injuries were reported.

Earth movements also were felt in southern Iran, southern Mexico, Taiwan, Mindanao, southern Italy, the Kamchatka Peninsula, south-central Alaska, and at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming.



For the week ending
 April 1, 1994

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Krakatoa Awakens

A recent powerful earthquake that jolted southern Sumatra is suspected to have awakened the Krakatoa (Krakatoa) Volcano in the Sunda Straits. "Ordinarily, the Krakatoa keeps quiet between one to four years, but now it is alive after a rest of only five months," said Dr. Sukhyar of the Volcanology Directorate. During late March, the mountain belched bright red flames and glowing lava, and sent black smoke nearly 1,000 feet into the sky.

Horse Flu

An outbreak of equine influenza has killed 30,000 horses in China and left 1.5 million seriously ill. The most deadly epidemic since 1949 began last May and has spread across the northern and western provinces, which are China's main horse-breeding centers. The government imposed a quarantine on the affected areas.

Siberian Snow

A late-season winter storm, raging across far-eastern Russia, brought a heavy snowfall that paralyzed air, ground, and maritime transportation in the region surrounding Sakhalin Island. About 700 ice-fishing enthusiasts, who ventured to a coastal ice strip just before the onset of the storm, were stranded for three days before roads could be cleared for their return home.

Wildfires

A forest fire raging in India's Simlipal national park threatens large numbers of tigers, leopards, and elephants. Environment Minister Adwait Singh said the blazes had engulfed one tenth of the 850-square-mile park about 150 miles southwest of Calcutta. Singh believes the fires may have been started by local tribes looking for firewood, and have been made worse by scorching weather.

Volunteers, army personnel, and workers joined to combat a 1,000-acre fire burning along the Honduras-Nicaragua border.

Beastly Beaver

A 5-foot-long, 80-pound beaver is gnawing its way through marina docks and birch trees around Moline, Ill., but the elusive animal has so far been able to elude capture and the lenses of stalking photographers. "Yeh, right...it's the beaver that ate Moline," joked visitor William Morris of nearby Sterling. The aquatic mammal's expensive tastes have led it to chew \$1,000 in damage at Marquis Harbor Yacht Club since January. If captured, the giant beaver would be taken to a pond about 15 miles to the east and released.

Additional Sources: Meteo Mauritius, Fiji Weather Bureau, U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.

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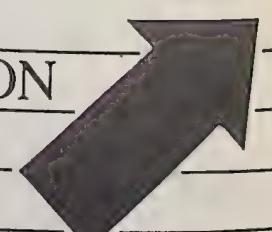
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Droughts

 Seventeen cities in provinces across northern China face what Beijing authorities are calling "the drought of the century." Officials have set up a \$3.2 million fund to help pump water to the affected population centers. Key grain-producing provinces are among the hardest hit.

Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto appealed to the nation to pray for rain to end a drought which started last October. The extended dry spell has affected wheat, sugar, and cotton crops.

The failure of seasonal rains in East Africa continues to threaten millions of people from Rwanda to Ethiopia with starvation.

Earthquakes

 Residents of southern Iran, weary of weeks in which hundreds of quakes or aftershocks have rumbled through the region, were jolted by a magnitude 5.5 earthquake that injured 20 people and damaged several homes in Firuzabad. In Southern California, there was yet another mild aftershock of the destructive January 17 tremor, and two fresh quakes centered near Lake Arrowhead and just south of Palm Springs.

Movements also were felt in Taiwan, the border region between Burma and Bangladesh, the Aleutian Islands, eastern Idaho, Washington State, and central California.

Late Snow

 A heavy snowfall and sudden cold wave spread late-winter misery across many districts of Tajikistan. The untimely chill came just as cultivation of orchards, vineyards, and mulberry plantations had begun. Officials feared that the low temperatures also threatened newborn sheep and goats, according to Tass. Much of the former Soviet Union recently has been affected by late winter storms.

Gulf Spill

 Beaches along the United Arab Emirates were spoiled by the worst oil spill in the region since the Gulf War. Nearly 16,000 tons of light crude spilled when the supertanker Seki and the much smaller ship Bay-nunah collided about 10 miles off the port of Al Fujayrah, just south of the Strait of Hormuz. While there were reports of dead fish shortly after the disaster, most of the coastal marine life was saved when shifting winds blew the crude offshore the day following the spill.

April Winds

 High winds whipped up massive ocean waves from the Canary Islands to northern Spain over the Easter weekend. Five people lost their lives in the raging seas, while seven others were left missing. Fishing fleets took shelter in the ports of Galicia, and ski resorts in the Pyrenees were

forced to shut down.

Bullet-train service was halted when high winds lashed northeastern Japan. Vehicles on the Tohoku Expressway, in Fukushima, were overturned during the tempest.

Floods

 Another round of heavy rains brought renewed flooding to northeastern Bangladesh. At least 40 people have died in the recent inundations. There was little hope of saving the rice crop, the area's only one of the year, according to district officer Mohammad Kamaluddin. Government meteorologists predict spring is likely to produce additional widespread flooding and outbreaks of deadly tornadoes.

Flash floods in southwestern Colombia killed at least six people and washed away scores of homes near swollen rivers.

More than 100,000 people in East Java remain homeless in continuing massive flooding.

Tropical Storms

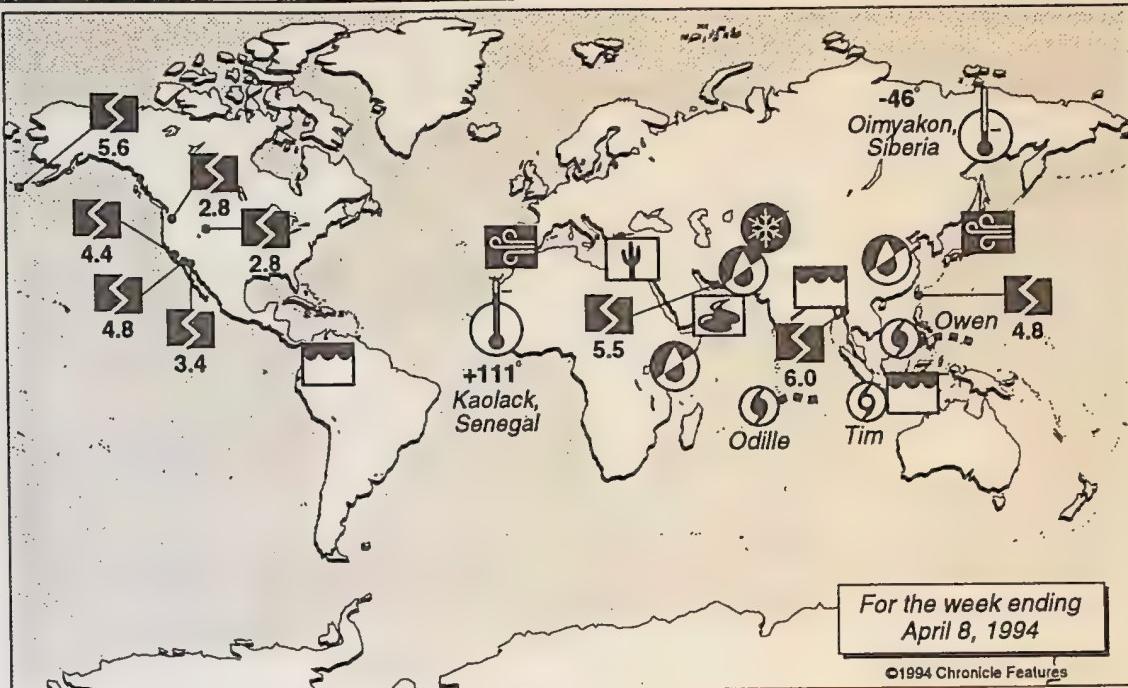
 Thousands of people in the central Philippines were forced to flee for their lives as typhoon Owen unleashed flash flooding on Leyte and Cebu islands. Two people were reported missing, while 6,000 others moved to higher ground when rivers overflowed.

Cyclone Odille whipped the Chagos Archipelago with strong winds and high surf as it passed across the central Indian Ocean. Cyclone Tim formed briefly just south of Java.

Sahara Squall

 A freak Saharan sand-storm swept over the Mediterranean island of Cyprus, turning the spring sky a yellow-gray, and threatening air traffic. The "desert depression" first hit Libya, then blew all the way across the sea to Greece.

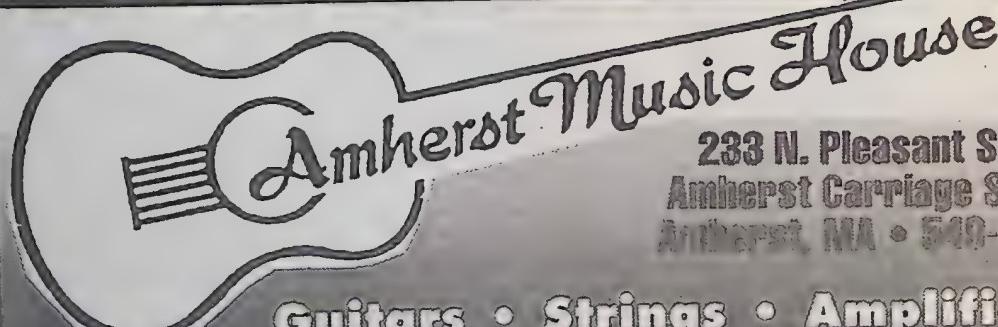
Additional Sources: U.S. Climate Analysis Center, U.S. Earthquake Information Center, and the World Meteorological Organization.



For the week ending
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JOE BOB BRIGGS

I'm probly the last person to go around defending the Pope, but I feel like I've got to say something. Every time the guy announces some new set of Catholic theological rules — like just exactly why it's a sin to use birth control — there's all this criticism and debate and commentary in the press.

Why?

What's the point?

Listen up, people: *It's none of our business.*

It's only the business of practicing Catholics. And then, because of the way the Catholic church is set up, it only leads to two choices — keep being a Catholic, or *stop* being a Catholic.

But, for everybody else, what's the big deal?

When you sign up to be a Catholic, you accept whatever the Pope says. That's the way it works.

When you sign up to be a Branch Davidian, you accept whatever the long-haired musky guy says. That's the way that works.

You're not on the side of freedom when you say, "Well, the Pope is *wrong*, and he should be more up-to-date. He needs to wise up and figure out what's going on in the 20th century."

Listen, he *knows* what's going on in the 20th century. *He doesn't like it.* That's his point.

But why does it make non-Catholics so *mad* when it has nothing to do with them?

And, for that matter, why does it make Catholics mad, since part of the Catholic doctrine is that you sit around and wait for His Polishness to *decide* these things. You don't send a decision up the chain of command, debate it, mull it, pray over it, deliberate, submit it to the cardinals, and then finally get a ruling from the

Pope — and then say, "No, let's, discuss it some more." He's either the Pope, or he's *not* the Pope.

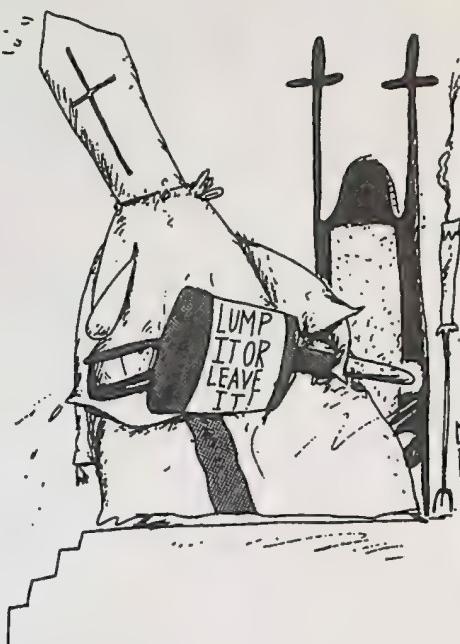
The only freedom issue is that you have the freedom to decide whether you're a Catholic or not. After all, all the *Eastern* versions of the Orthodox churches will take you. All the various versions of the Pope in Constantinople and Damascus and Moscow and Athens and wherever else they live. Or you can just become a Unitarian, and then you get to decide *everything* yourself.

But, when I read these articles about the Pope's decisions, I always think that people are confusing religion with democracy.

They have nothing to do with each other.

That's why we keep 'em separate.

I'm surprised I have to explain this.



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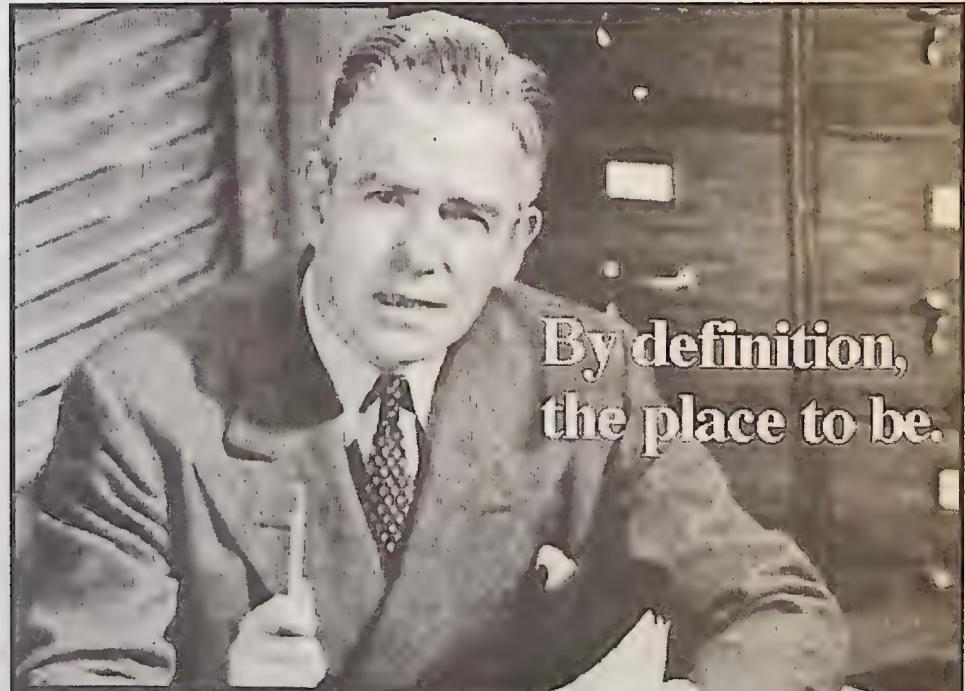
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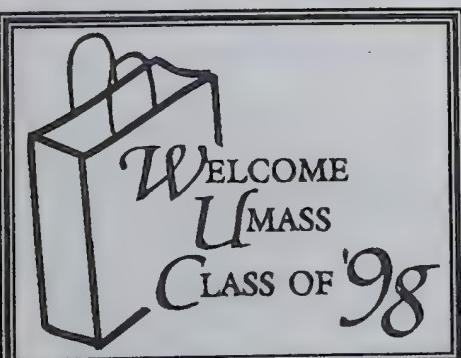
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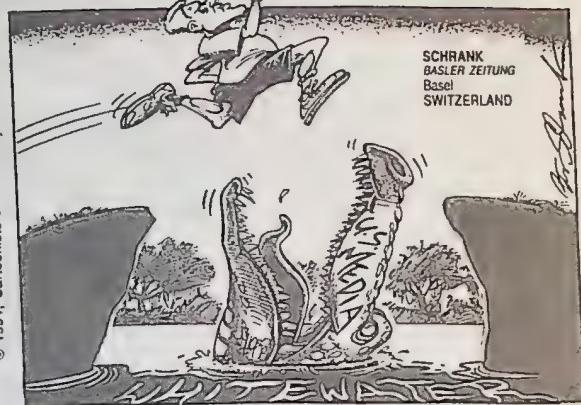
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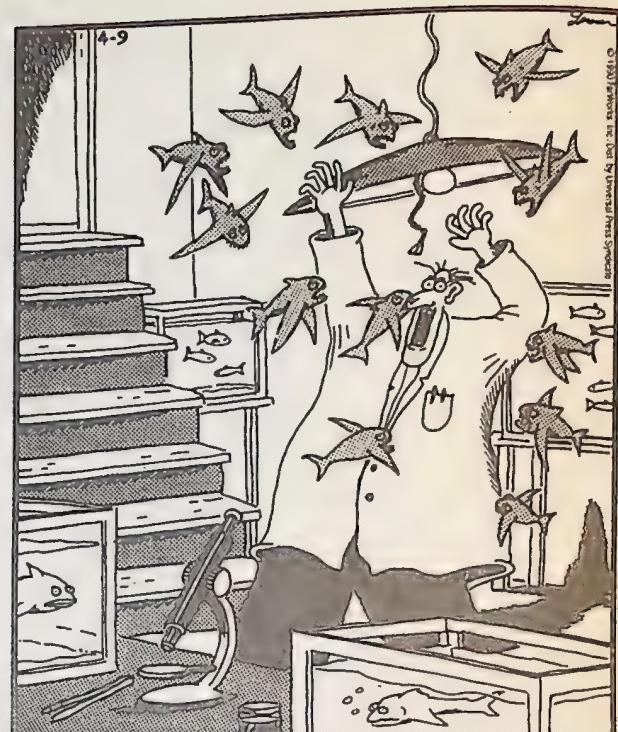
BY GARY LARSON



"Well, Red Cloud, it just so happens I did go ask the chief! ... A bear claw necklace is a symbol of honor — a Grizzly Adams fingernail necklace is not!"



"And one more thing about tomorrow's company picnic: Do I have to mention what happened last year when some moron sabotaged the games with a case of acid-filled LD-50s?"



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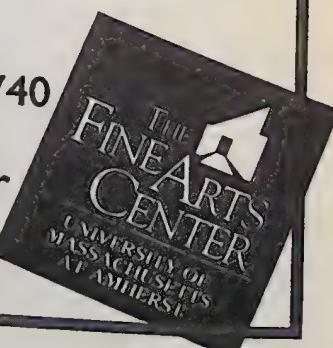


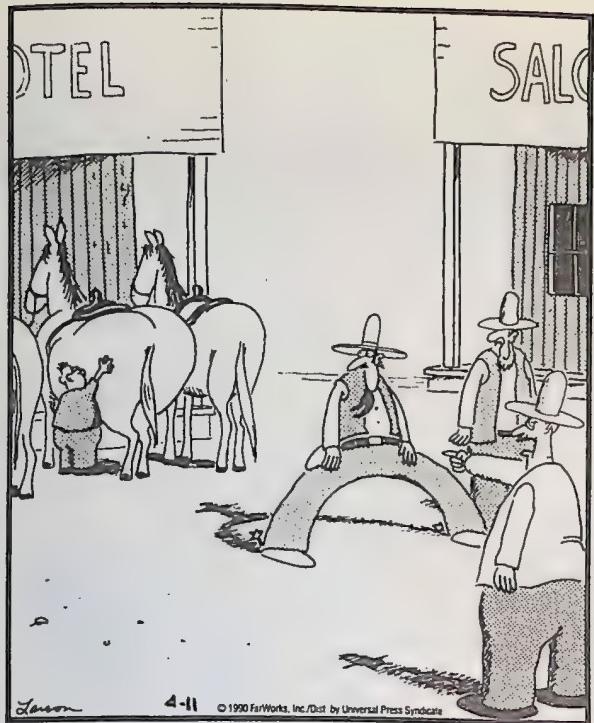
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"Dave! Ain't that your horse that kid is messin' with?"



Monster game shows

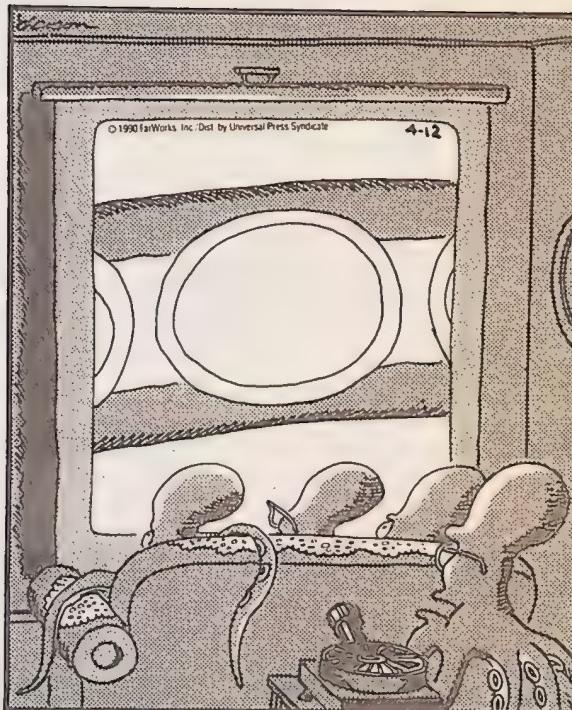


At the Dog Museum



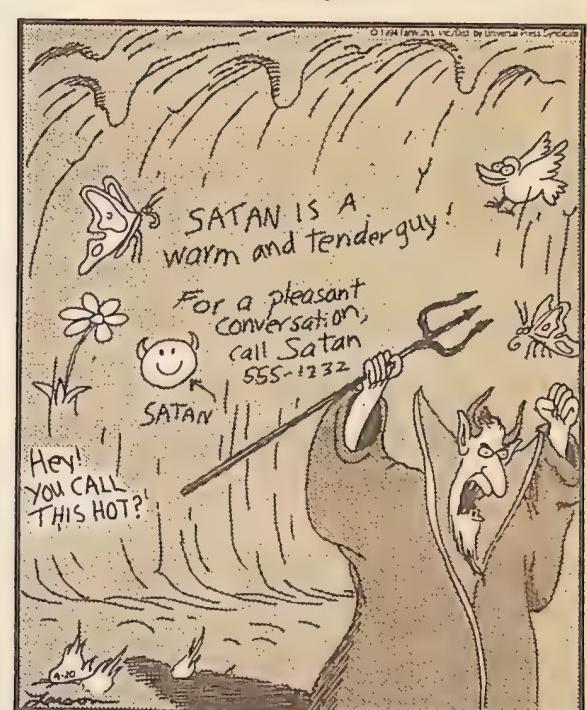
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"You need to see medicine man — me just handyman."



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"Again? Criminy! How many times did I have a tentacle over the lens?"

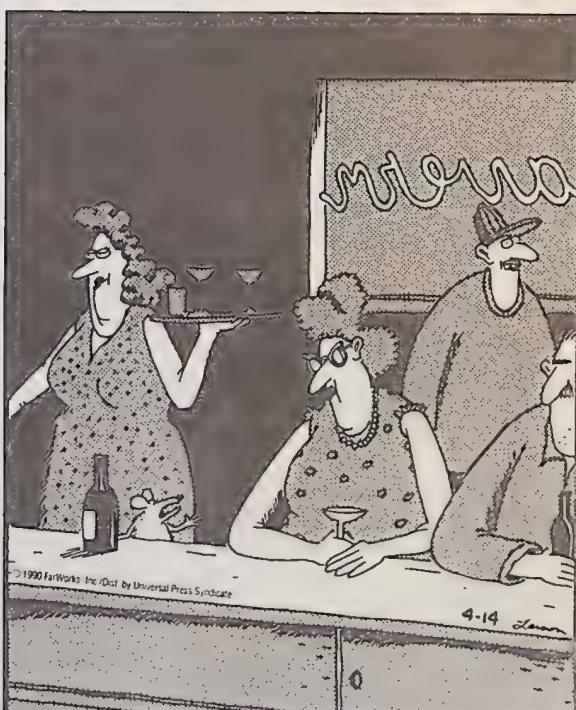


Graffiti in hell



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"Criminy! Talk about overstaying your welcome! ... John, open the door and turn the porch light on — see if that gets rid of them."



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"Well, we could go back to my place, but you have to understand — I'm serious when I say it's just a hole in the wall."



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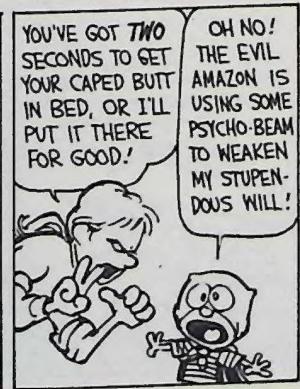
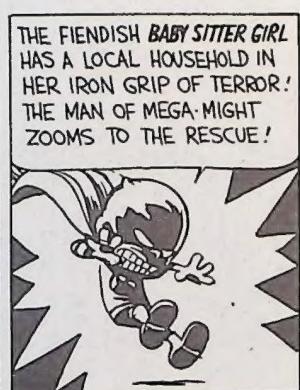
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calvin and Hobbes

by BILL MATTISON

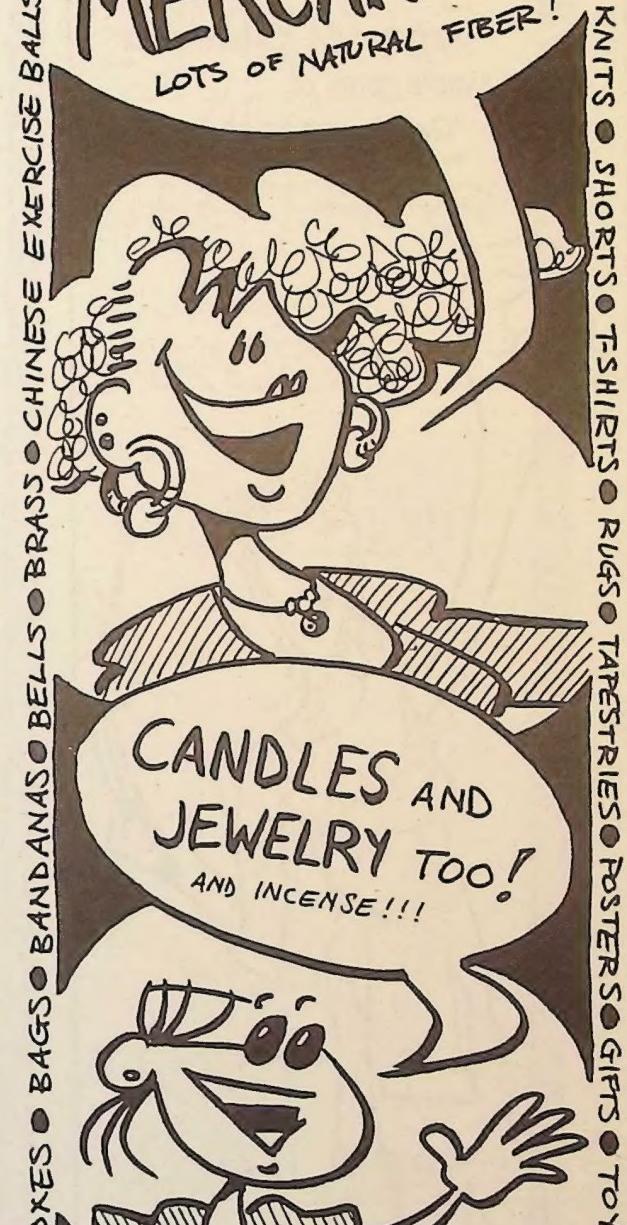




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Leold

by Roger Salloom

I was talking with my friend, Mark Niznik. He knows a lot about current events.

Mark told me he saw an interview with John Bobbitt.

He said John was really dismayed about the whole thing.

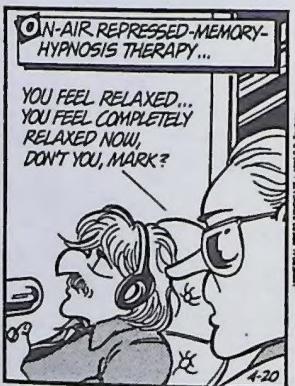
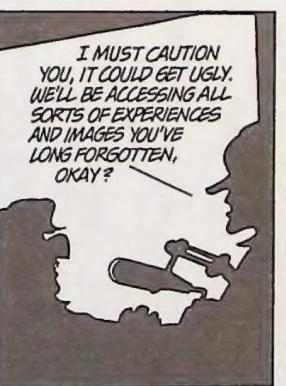
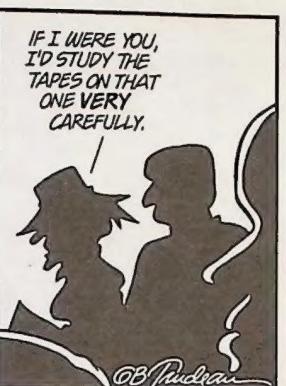
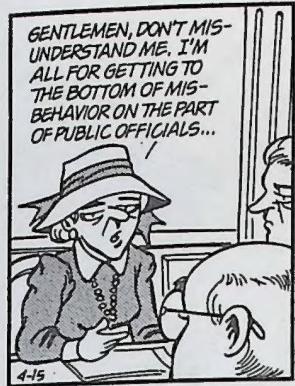
Apparently, it started out as a simple game of,
"Gotchyour Nose."



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